



**Scientific Council
Fifty-ninth Session**

SC/59/3
21 December 2022

Lyon, 8–10 February 2023
By web conference

UPDATE ON THE “NOUVEAU CENTRE” AND ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

INTRODUCTION

1. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has been hosted by the French public authorities since its creation in 1965. For five decades, from 1972 to 2022, IARC carried out its activities at the Grange-Blanche site, located in the 8th district of Lyon. The IARC community was housed within the "Tower" owned by the City of Lyon, and three additional buildings built by IARC. Given the deteriorated condition of the premises, a technical study of the buildings was undertaken in 2012 to determine their suitability to continue to host IARC activities. The decision was made to relocate IARC, and in May 2014, the Governing Council, in consultation with the French Government, confirmed the relocation of the Agency to the heart of the Lyon-Gerland Biodistrict.
2. The French public authorities agreed on the funding scheme for the "Nouveau Centre" building in 2015. It will be co-funded by the French government (Ministry of Research, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs), the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, the Metropole of Lyon, and the City of Lyon. IARC was responsible for the costs of equipping the "Nouveau Centre", including scientific equipment as well as the transfer of all activities to the new premises.
3. As the owner of the building, the Metropole of Lyon signed an agreement with IARC on 27 October 2022 to provide the building free of charge for 30 years, with the possibility of extending. This agreement became effective the day the keys of the "Nouveau Centre" were handed over to IARC, on 28 October 2022.

MAIN FEATURES OF THE NEW HEADQUARTERS

4. The new headquarters of IARC are located at 25 avenue Tony Garnier in the 7th district of Lyon. The building is laid out over six floors offering 11 500 m² in total, which represents an almost 20% increase in capacity compared to the previous premises. The “Nouveau Centre” will enable IARC to grow: the Agency has the space to increase its workforce to at least 500 personnel, within an attractive work environment.

KEY FIGURES OF THE IARC "NOUVEAU CENTRE"			
Gross floor area	15 179 m ²	Office space	5050 m ²
Net floor area (excluding technical premises and parking)	11 516 m ²	Laboratories	3030 m ²
Garden	4745 m ²	Meeting rooms	1100 m ²
Car park	127 spaces	Workstations	500 people at one time
Bicycle park	100 spaces		

5. The “Nouveau Centre” is a state-of-the-art building, providing attractive offices, modern laboratories, with a significant investment in new equipment. The building features cutting-edge technologies which will simplify processes and procedures, data management and on-line meetings. It will allow the Biobank to nearly double its capacity, thereby increasing sampling and storage of biological samples for high quality research.

6. The “Nouveau Centre” also represents a welcome opportunity to reduce IARC’s ecological footprint thanks to its eco-friendly design, paving the way to a new mindset. The environment and how the Agency can contribute further to achieving sustainable development goals has been placed on IARC’s agenda.

THE “NOUVEAU CENTRE” ECOSYSTEM IN THE LYON-GERLAND BIODISTRICT

7. The “Nouveau Centre” not only represents the new headquarters of IARC, it also symbolizes the main ambitions of IARC’s Medium-Term Strategy 2021–2025. The architectural concept of the “Nouveau Centre” aims to promote the concept of “open science” as well as enhance collaboration with the local and national partners.

8. The physical structure of the “Nouveau Centre” reflects our values of transparency and collaboration. The concept of “open science” is at the heart of the new building and will allow us to ensure open access to research infrastructures, to scientific data and knowledge as well as open up new possibilities for dialogue and engagement with society.

9. Located in the Lyon-Gerland Biodistrict, the “Nouveau Centre” will contribute to better synergies with numerous partners in research and health. The Gerland Biodistrict gathers Lyon’s leading research institutes (INSERM, ENS, Bioaster...), health organizations (ANSM, ANSES, HCL...) as well as potential private healthcare companies within an attractive ecosystem. IARC already has interactions with these institutions.

10. The proximity of the “Nouveau Centre” to the future premises of the WHO Academy and to the WHO Lyon Office establishes a public health hub on a global scale, the “Lyon WHO Hub”. This hub will allow IARC to share programmes, resources, and service providers, and stands as a unique opportunity for IARC to increase collaborations and partnerships locally and around the world.

PROJECT TIMELINE

11. The construction of the “Nouveau Centre” was officially completed on 28 October 2022, though providers are still working on several aspects of the building, including the electrical network, ventilation and heating systems, and wall and ceiling finishes. Construction took 27 months to complete (excluding preparation), with the collaboration of more than 60 companies in the region.
12. Despite several delays, IARC’s equipment and furniture have been moved into the new building as planned. This operation included the delicate and technically complicated transfer of the Biobank and its 6 million biological samples, which was successfully completed at the beginning of December 2022. Now, IARC has until October 2023 to ensure the construction companies resolve any outstanding compliance issues.
13. The key next steps in the project timeline are as follows:
 - Security procedures with the French authorities in January 2023,
 - Security training of IARC personnel and gradual return to the office in January 2023,
 - Welcome ceremony with the personnel on 20 January 2023,
 - Official inauguration ceremony of the “Nouveau Centre” on 12 May 2023.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION EFFORTS : THE “NOUVEAU CENTRE” FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

14. As described during the last Scientific Council in February 2022, the Secretariat has developed a three-pronged strategy to mobilize in-kind and financial resources for the Nouveau Centre project. All three axes of the campaign have been implemented over the last year, namely:
 - A local campaign targeting major donors and key influencers in Lyon and its surroundings.
 - An in-kind contribution campaign targeting corporate, for-profit entities.
 - A major gift campaign targeting Ultra-High Net Worth individuals (UHNWI) and/or Participating States.
15. During the Governing Council session in May 2021, the IARC Secretariat launched a crowdfunding campaign that allowed individuals to have their name written on the glass doors of the “Nouveau Centre” in exchange for an affordable donation (isupport.iarc.fr). The campaign was publicized internally as well as externally. A media kit (with shareable emails and social media tiles) was shared with IARC staff and our extended network, including but not limited to Scientific and Governing Council members. The Secretariat organized several visits to the “Nouveau Centre” construction site for local partners (Rotary clubs, Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Club of CEOs from large companies such as Le Prisme, consulates based in Lyon, etc.) to promote the campaign among a wide range of potential donors. A press conference was held in the “Nouveau Centre” on 6 July 2021 resulting in coverage in local media. Celebrities were also engaged, including Caroline Garcia, a well-known French tennis player, who was appointed a Friend of IARC to help bring visibility to IARC on social media.

16. IARC was able to raise €60 635 from the crowdfunding campaign, and also significantly increased its visibility amongst local stakeholders, including the media, large corporations and the general public. This increased visibility will help develop future strategic partnerships with local and national entities and strengthen IARC’s position as a leading international cancer research centre.

17. The campaign also allowed the Secretariat to secure financial donations, amounting to €50 570, from local Non-State Actors (NSA). For example, the company Arrivetz organized a charity artwork auction in support of IARC and its Nouveau Centre, raising €16 000. Other initiatives, such as a charity lunch organized in collaboration with the Rotary club, and IARC’s online donation page were also used to collect donations from the public.

18. The Secretariat formally launched the in-kind contribution campaign in October 2020 on the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM). The equipment needed for the Nouveau Centre was divided into three areas: furniture, IT-audio-video equipment and laboratory equipment. Specific donor acknowledgement guidelines were discussed and finalized with WHO DAN (Due diligence of Non-State-Actors) and LEG (Legal unit).

19. The Secretariat has secured in-kind donations from 13 different companies for a total of €273 451, with a few agreements pending. The most visible locations of the “Nouveau Centre” (reception areas, cafeteria, common spaces) will be furnished by these companies. One hundred new height-adjustable desks for the new offices have also been donated.

20. Regarding the major gift part of the campaign, the Secretariat has secured a large donation from a major donor and from Norway, an IARC Participating State. The Secretariat is currently discussing with potential major donors, especially from the Middle East geographic area.

21. The Secretariat has also worked on engaging more meaningfully with potential donors, including IARC Participating States and High Net-Worth Individuals, offering them the opportunity to name a meeting room or key location in the Nouveau Centre. Contributions over €100 000 will be eligible and will be accommodated on a first-come first-served basis. To illustrate the universal mandate of IARC, the Secretariat hopes that some Participating States will wish to name one of these locations after their country, city or even a national scientist who works to advance cancer research. Eleven locations, including meeting rooms and other key locations, have been identified for this initiative. They are distributed as follows:

- One meeting room with capacity of 100 pax
- Two meeting rooms with capacity of 50 pax
- Two meeting rooms with capacity of 30 pax
- One training room with capacity of 15 pax
- One video-conferencing room with capacity of 15 pax
- Four remaining key locations: reception hall, atrium garden, cafeteria and the library (The auditorium will bear the name of Dr Christophe Mérieux)

22. In accordance with previous Governing Council discussions, IARC will carry over the name of Princess Takamatsu and/or Sasakawa into the Nouveau Centre. One of the meeting rooms will be attributed to them.